

## We claim:

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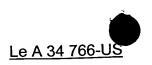
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 A process for preparing a precious metal-containing support comprising:

- (a) bringing (i) at least one support material comprising SiH groups into contact with (ii) at least one precious metal compound and/or at least one precious metal particle for up to two hours to form a precious metal-containing support wherein the precious metal on the precious metal-containing support has a diameter in the range of from 0.01 to 10 nm; and
- (b) drying the precious metal-containing support.
- 2. The process according to Claim 1, wherein the at least one support material is an organic-inorganic hybrid material.
- 3. The process according to Claim 1, wherein the at least one precious metal compound and/or the at least one precious metal particle is selected from the group consisting of gold, silver, and a mixture of gold and silver.
- 20 4. The process according to Claim 1, wherein the contact time is less than 0.5 hour.
  - The process according to Claim 1, wherein the drying is carried out by a spray drying process or by a fluidized bed process.
- 6. The process according to Claim 1, wherein the at least one support material is thermally treated before and/or after contact with the at least one precious metal compound and/or the at least one precious metal particle.

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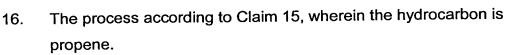
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- 7. A precious metal-containing support comprising:
  - (i) at least one support material comprising SiH groups; and
  - (ii) at least one precious metal compound and/or at least one precious metal particle;

wherein more than 50% of the precious metal in the precious-metal containing support has a diameter in the range of from 0.01 to 10 nm.

- The precious metal-containing support according to Claim 7,
  wherein the at least one support material is an organic-inorganic hybrid material.
  - The precious metal-containing support according to Claim 7,
     wherein the at least one support material comprises silicon oxide.
  - 10. The precious metal-containing support according to Claim 9, wherein the at least one support material comprises 0 to 20 mole % of titanium oxide, based on the amount of silicon oxide.
  - 11. The precious metal-containing support according to Claim 9, wherein the at least one support material comprises 0 to 20 mole % of molybdenum oxide, based on the amount of silicon oxide.
- 20 12. The precious metal-containing support according to Claim 9, wherein the at least one support material comprises SiH groups in a range between 0.01 and 80 mole %, based on the amount of silicon oxide.
- 13. The precious metal-containing support according to Claim 7,
  wherein the at least one support material optionally comprises at least one promoter.
  - 14. The precious-metal containing support of Claim 7, wherein the precious metal-containing support has catalytic activity.
- 15. A process for the partial oxidation of a hydrocarbon in the presence of the precious-metal containing support of Claim 7, molecular oxygen, hydrogen, and optionally, other gases.



- 17. The process according to Claim 16, where propene is oxidized to propene oxide.
- 5 18. A precious metal-containing support according to Claim 7, wherein the precious metal-containing support is used for the oxidation of hydrocarbons.